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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1922

## BIBLE THOUGHT FOR TODAY

**SAFE STEPS.**—The steps of a good  
man are ordered by the Lord; and he  
delighteth in his way.—Psalm 37: 23.

HOW WILL SOLDIERS  
BENEFIT?

The question of adjusted com-  
pensation to veterans of the world  
war is the most discussed question  
throughout the country at the  
present time and is receiving  
practically the whole attention of  
congress. There are many ad-  
vocates of this or that method of  
raising the necessary revenue  
and the manner in which it  
should be paid. A few days ago  
a committee of the Ways and  
Means Committee submitted a  
recommendation of the sources  
from which this revenue should  
be raised and a careful consid-  
eration of this recommendation  
will show that much of the re-  
venue will be paid by the ex-ser-  
vice men themselves through the  
gasoline, tobacco theatre and real  
estate taxes. It is proposed to pay  
the additional compensation in  
quarterly payments beginning  
some time in 1923, so if a service  
man is a smoker, or buys a piece  
of property, or owns and runs a  
flivver or more pretentious car  
his quarterly receipts from the  
adjusted compensation will pos-  
sibly pay his additional taxes.  
The government will be saddled  
with an enormous bond issue  
which will undoubtedly have a  
very positive effect upon the  
economic condition of the coun-  
try, and no one will have been  
benefitted thereby. As we have  
said in a former article, the time  
to have paid this additional com-  
pensation was when the men were  
discharged from the service and  
needed the money to reinstate  
themselves in civil life, but tax-  
ing them, as is going to be done,  
to pay the additional compensa-  
tion is going to do them no good  
and will entail an enormous bur-  
den upon the government in a  
time of economic stress.

No expense or effort should  
be spared to properly compensate  
the disabled, cost what it may,  
but to pay able bodied men com-  
pensation at this time and then  
take it back from them in taxes  
is going to have no good effect  
upon the men nor upon the coun-  
try as a whole.

If this compensation is going  
to be paid then it should be col-  
lected in the form of an income  
tax from those who profited  
most from the war while these  
men were fighting for them and  
should not be collected from the  
ordinary citizen and from the ex-  
soldier himself in taxes from what  
might be termed every day essen-  
tials. Certainly to pay it in  
small quarterly payments just as  
a bid for political consideration  
in the next election is not going  
to appeal to the men themselves

nor profit the party which seeks  
to so bait them.

## TO COTTON FARMERS

We are printing elsewhere in  
this issue a leaflet embodying  
some vital statistics compiled by  
the Cotton Acreage Committee,  
to which we invite the attention  
of every merchant and cotton  
planter in this section. All of  
the essential facts of the situation  
are brought out in this leaflet and  
the subject is very conservative-  
ly treated.

The cotton planters are at the  
parting of the ways. One road  
—full acreage—leads to positive  
and hopeless disaster; the other  
road—small acreage—leads to  
quick recovery and financial solv-  
ency. The future is in the  
keeping of the planters them-  
selves. Under present conditions  
of supply and consumption, the  
carry over on August 1st next  
may be five million bales, and  
cannot be less than three million  
bales. No authority estimates  
the consumption of American cot-  
ton at more than twelve million  
bales maximum for the next crop  
year, and the only safe course to  
pursue is to reduce acreage to the  
possibility of only eight million  
bales for the current year. Last  
year's acreage turns out to have  
been around thirty million acres,  
and except for the weevil invas-  
tation and adverse weather con-  
ditions, a crop of twelve million  
bales would have been possible,  
in which event cotton would have  
sold for 10c a lb and the South  
would have been inevitably bank-  
rupt.

The time has come to turn a  
deaf ear to sentimentalists. The  
South does not raise cotton for  
humanitarian purposes, not with  
the object of clothing Chinese,  
Japanese, or what-not, but primar-  
ily for the purpose of making  
a living; and there is no more  
reason why the South should  
produce a surplus of cotton than  
that a cotton mill should produce  
a surplus of goods or a bank of  
issue keep out a redundant cur-  
rency. In the case of the cotton  
mill or the bank, these can cur-  
tail at will, but in the case of the  
cotton planter, he has only one  
time within the year at which to  
curtail, which is the planting  
season.

A man has no more right to com-  
mit economic than physical sui-  
cide. The cotton planters know  
that a small crop has a greater  
monetary value than a large crop  
and with this fact established  
and recognized, failure to reduce  
acreage to the point of the  
world's need for cotton would be

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simply can't get over the hab-  
it. Other folks keep telling  
us how well pleased they are  
with the plumbing work we  
have done for them and we're  
bound to keep on telling you  
what they tell us until you  
say the same thing about our  
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next crop. With such a crop, the  
world will have a sufficiency of  
cotton, and this is the extent of  
the planter's obligation to hum-  
anitarian consideration. The  
South is on trial, its intelligence  
is being weighed in the balance.  
—Morning Star.

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